

BACH CHOIR EXCELS IN PEACE FESTIVAL

Larger Number of Fine Voices, Better Trained Than Ever, Feature of Event SUNG IN RELIGIOUS SPIRIT

By a Staff Correspondent Bethlehem, Pa., June 7.—The Bach choir of Bethlehem, probably the finest choir in the United States and certainly the best trained, will contribute to the mighty genius from whom it took its name in the fourteenth Bach festival which opened in Packer Chapel yesterday.

The attendance surpassed all records, while for the B minor mass there is not a seat to be obtained at any price. Yesterday's program was divided into two parts and consisted entirely of cantatas of the great master. The first was "The Lord Is My Shepherd," a work new to the choir and probably given in its entirety for the first time in the United States.

The cantata is exceedingly difficult, but was sung with the precision and accuracy that characterizes all the work of the Bach choir. This was followed by the solo cantata, "I, With My Cross Staff, Gladly Wander," for baritone voice and orchestra. Then came two strong contrasts, the solemn "Teach Me, Lord, My Days to Number" and the jubilant "The Lord Is Sun and Shield," which closed the afternoon performance.

Choir Better Than Ever

It is not necessary to go into the details of the composition of these cantatas. They are all the Bach of the Leipzig period, which means that they are all polyphonic to a degree technically, but this polyphony is never intensive and they are full of the most intense religious feeling.

They were beautifully sung, with the choir having a larger number of voices this year than ever before and it has been trained to a higher degree of perfection. Their crescendos and diminuendos, two of the hardest musical effects to attain, were beautiful and more than all else the members entered into the religious feeling of the works and gave them with a sincerity and conviction that was only matched by that of the man who has made all this possible, Doctor Wolfe.

Choir Better Than Ever

Of the leader of the choir nothing need be said. He has long since placed himself in a position of being the leading Bach expert of this country, if not of the world, and in Bach's music, what he deems is authentic, and just, because he obtains effects from these wonderful scores that no one else obtains.

The soloists were Mildred Fans, soprano; Emma Roberts, alto; Nicholas Douthy, tenor, and Captain Charles T. Tittman, bass. Miss Fans showed a fine voice and good technique, although her style might have been a little broader. However, no vocalist or instrumentalist who ever lived has too much breadth for Bach. The same might also be said of Miss Roberts, although Bach is always more lenient with the lower voice, both male and female, than with the higher ones.

Mr. Tittman was at his best in the second number, solo cantata for bass voice, and displayed a voice resonant and especially good in the upper register.

THE CRITIC TALKS TO MUSIC LOVERS

Weekly Comment on Things Musical in Discriminating Philadelphia

THE highly creditable and interesting concert given a week ago Sunday evening by the Symphony Club at the Garrick Theatre brings that unique organization again to the attention of the musical public.

It has now been about eight years since the Symphony Club was formed by Edwin A. Fleisher, who still continues as its president and who, incidentally, bears all the expense of the organization, which is purely philanthropic. Its object was, then, as now, to give musical instruction and practical experience in the performance of music of various kinds to those young people to whom otherwise it would be an impossibility.

The early meetings of the club were held in one of the downtown school houses, which was obtained for the purpose but as soon as Mr. Fleisher became convinced that the idea would be a success he built a home for the club on Pine street, and in the fine building which he put up all the meetings, rehearsals and smaller concerts of the society have since been held, except for one or two concerts a year, which are given in a larger auditorium and are open to such of the public as cares to attend.

WEIRD MUSIC FOR GRIFFITH

Producer Has to Call Off Chinese After a performance of "Broken Blossoms" at the Garrick Theatre the other night, D. W. Griffith asked if the Chinese troupe would not "play" some of the weird music that they offered was a little too much. A little Chinaman with a white beard, who is the leader of the musicians, then volunteered for the concert. He brought forward his stringed instrument, which he began to strum as though he loved his art. On and on he went, playing with a smile, "but the only trouble about the Chinese music is that it never stops." And it might not have stopped that evening either had not the producer of "Broken Blossoms" finally declared satisfaction. That old fellow was grateful for the thanks and that night he was the happiest resident of Chinatown when he clambered to his room over a chop suey shop.

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THE Philadelphia churches have taken a much more interest in the music which they provide in the last few years than formerly, and with excellent results. Music's first "official" function was in the church, and it is due to a considerable extent to the support and sanction which the church gave to music in its early days that the art was enabled to make so much progress. Now music has a chance to repay the debt, and it is doing so with interest.

The struggle of music to make a place for itself in the church in the colonial days of this country, especially in New England, which favored section now considers itself the home of music in the United States, is an interesting story. In those days the violin especially was considered an instrument of the devil and especially encouraged by that much-maligned personality—not that it really was, although it has been known to sound that way at times.

From that time on, however, music has taken a larger and ever-growing place in the religious service, until today it is an indispensable adjunct. The churches have realized this, and year by year more music has been getting better and better.

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MUSICAL EVENTS IN PHILADELPHIA CIRCLES

The Musical services will be resumed early in the fall. The ninth annual concert and commencement exercises of the Central School of Music will be given next Tuesday evening at 8 o'clock in the auditorium of the Central Branch of the Young Men's Christian Association, 1421 Arch street.

W. La Roy Fram announces a concert to be given by the pupils of the Philadelphia Institute of Music and the Allied Arts, in the Newman hall, Fuller building, on Saturday afternoon June 14, at 3 o'clock. Invitations may be secured upon application to the office of the Institute in the Fuller building.

It has been announced that Mrs. Luisa Tetravini will make an extended concert tour of the United States in the fall. She will make a summer tour of the British Isles, and will return to this country early in September.

The Sunday evening musical services at the Second Presbyterian Church, Twenty-first and Walnut streets, have been the most successful season. In addition to a special Sunday service, the choir of the church also gave three-weekly recitals.

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Stanley Presents OLIVER THOMAS UPSTAIRS AND DOWN. Today Last Times, Mary Pickford in "Daddy Long Legs"—Next Week "STOLEN ORDERS"

PALACE ARCADIA CHESTNUT BEL. 16TH. TODAY—LAST TIMES WALLACE REID IN "YOU'RE FIRED" TOMORROW—LAST TIMES "THE SHEN'S SONG"

VICTORIA THEATRE MARKET ST. VICTORIA ORCHESTRA TODAY—LAST TIMES "THE SHEN'S SONG" NEXT WEEK—"A HOUSE OF HORRORS"

BROADWAY MARKET ST. BROAD AND SNYDER AVE. DAILY 2:30. NEXT WEEK—HARRY NATHAN PRESENTS VALDEWILL'S NEWEST OFFERING

THE OWL MARKET STREET BELOW 60TH DAILY 2:30. NEXT WEEK—THE BRIGHT MUSICAL TABLOID

THE MOST PRONOUNCED SUCCESS PHILADELPHIA HAS SEEN IN YEARS D. W. GRIFFITH'S ORCHID MIRACLE IN ARTISTRY "BROKEN BLOSSOMS"

WALNUT LAST MAT. TODAY, 2:30. NEXT WEEK—LAST TIMES TONIGHT "THE SHEN'S SONG"

Willow Grove Park VESSELLA and his BAND ORESTE VESSELLA, Conductor CONCERTS AFTERNOON AND EVENING

SAM S. SHUBERT THEATRE BROAD BELOW MARKET. SUMMER PRICES \$1.50 to \$1.00. THE ONLY SHOW IN TOWN "OH, UNCLE" Mat. Today at 2:15

CHESTNUT ST. OPERA HOUSE 2 WEEKS, BEGINNING MONDAY. Mack Sennett's Bathing Beauties Bothwell Browne "YANKEE DOODLE IN BERLIN"

Broad Street Theatre WEEK OF JUNE 9TH. Matinee, Saturday, June 14. Philopatrian Players in George M. Cohan's Celebrated Comedy "Broadway Jones"

SEE ANNOUNCEMENT DAILY IN THE PUBLIC LEDGER AND EVENING PUBLIC LEDGER PHOTOPLAY PRESENTATIONS FOR WEEK OF JUNE 9 TO JUNE 14. Table with columns for days of the week and subjects to change.